WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A knee protection airbag apparatus, configured to be mounted in a vehicle and disposed in front of a knee of an occupant seated in a seat, comprising:

a casing having an opening at a vehicle rear side part thereof and fixedly mounted on a vehicle body, for accommodating a folded knee protection airbag and an inflator supplying an inflating gas to said airbag;

an airbag cover, assembled to said casing so as to be movable in three directions including an upward-downward direction, a left-right direction, and a front-rear direction with respect to said casing, said airbag cover including

a door portion which covers said opening of said casing and is opened when said airbag is inflated, and

a general portion which is disposed around said door portion and has an upper part that adjoins a vehicle interior component when mounted in said vehicle; and

a knee panel, fixed to said vehicle body, having an opening into which said casing is received;

wherein an upper side portion of said airbag cover is locked to said interior component; and

a lower side portion of said airbag cover is locked to said knee panel so as to be movable substantially only in the upward-downward direction and the left-right direction with respect to said knee panel.

2. The knee protection airbag apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said airbag has a locking member provided in said general portion,

wherein said knee panel has a locking hole which penetrates though said knee panel and is placed at a position corresponding to said locking member, and

wherein said locking member has a shaft portion, which penetrates through said locking hole and is movable in said locking hole substantially only in the upward-downward direction and the left-right direction, and has a locking portion and an abutting portion, by which a periphery of said locking hole is sandwiched from both of a front and rear sides of said locking hole.

3. The knee protection airbag apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said locking member of said airbag cover has said shaft portion that is elastically deformable, and wherein said locking portion is formed at a tip end part of said shaft portion, while said abutting portion is formed at a proximal end part of said shaft portion.

4. The knee protection airbag apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said airbag has a lock receiving part provided in said general portion,

wherein said knee panel has a locking hole placed at a position corresponding to said lock receiving part so as to penetrate through said knee panel,

wherein said lock receiving portion of said airbag cover and said knee panel are locked by said locking member, and

wherein said locking member has a shaft portion that penetrates through said locking hole and is movable in said locking hole substantially only in the upward-downward direction and the left-right direction.

5. The knee protection airbag apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said knee panel, said casing, said airbag, said inflator, and said airbag cover are assembled into a single assembly before mounted in said vehicle.

6. The knee protection airbag apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said knee panel is constructed so as to be integral with said casing.

7. A knee protection airbag apparatus, configured to be mounted in a vehicle and disposed in front of a knee of an occupant seated in a seat, comprising:

a casing having an opening at a vehicle rear side part thereof and fixedly mounted on a vehicle body, for accommodating a folded knee protection airbag and an inflator supplying an

inflating gas to said airbag; and

an airbag cover, assembled to said casing, having

a door portion which covers said opening of said casing and is opened when said airbag is inflated, and

a general portion which is disposed around said door portion and has an upper part that adjoins a vehicle interior component when mounted in said vehicle;

wherein an upper side portion of said airbag cover is assembled to said casing so as to be movable in three directions including an upward-downward direction, a left-right direction, and a front-rear direction with respect to said casing; and

a lower side portion of said airbag cover is assembled to said casing so as to be movable substantially only in the upward-downward direction and the nearly left-right direction with respect to said casing.